

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claims 1-4 have been cancelled, and claims 5-6 and 8-9 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 5-12 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

**Priority**

The Examiner stated that in order to obtain foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), a translation of the foreign priority document, under 37 C.F.R. 1.55, was required in reply to this Office Action. In light of the cancellation of the rejected claims, the requirement is moot.

**Rejections under 35 USC § 112**

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner states that the recitation of “the protective film having a smaller thickness on the edge of the electrode” is indefinite because there is no indication which electrode has the protective film having a smaller thickness on the edge of the electrode.

Claims 1-4 have been canceled and thus the rejection of claims 1-4 is moot.

Claims 5-6 and 8-9 have been amended to distinguish which electrode has the protective film. Accordingly the rejection of claims 5-6 and 8-9 should be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 7 and 10-12 the electrode limitation is present by means of a dependency on independent claim 6 and dependent claim 9, thus in light of the above amendments to independent claim 6 and dependent claim 9 the rejection should be withdrawn.

**Rejections under 35 USC § 102**

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tanimoto et al. (5,430,750).

Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and thus the rejection is moot.

**Rejections under 35 USC § 103**

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tanimoto et al (5,430,750) in view of Yokota (6,647,047).

Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled and thus the rejection is moot.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 5 through 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims and rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C 112 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph rejection.

As discussed above claims 5, 6, and 8-9 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C 112 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph rejection.

Claims 5 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form and are believed to have all the limitations of claim 1, from which they were previously dependent upon. Accordingly, claims 5 and 6 should be allowed.

Claims 7-12 should be allowed for at least the reason that they depend on an allowable base claim.

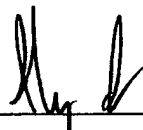
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 259052004000. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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